

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 03893 100529Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 /041 W  
-----056892 100532Z /15  
P 100502Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 975

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3893

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ELAB, KS  
SUBJ: VISIT OF AAFLI REP TO KOREA: TONGIL TEXTILE DISPUTE

REF: STATE 106220; SEOUL 3505

1. ROBERT WHOLEY OF AAFLI LEFT SEOUL ON MAY 3 AFTER MAKING AN INTENSIVE STUDY OF THE TONGIL TEXTILE DISPUTE. WHOLEY CONTACTED THE FKTU, THE NATIONAL TEXTILE WORKERS UNION (NTWU), INDIVIDUALS IN THE URBAN INDUSTRIAL MISSION, YOUNG CHRISTIAN WORKERS, AND OTHERS WITH KNOWLEDGE OF EVENTS. ALL PARTIES WERE OPEN AND COOPERATIVE.

2. LABATT CONFERRED WITH WHOLEY SEVERAL TIMES DURING VISIT AND WAS IMPRESSED WITH EFFORT AND CARE HE PUT IN TO SEARCH TO UNCOVER THE FACTS IN THIS COMPLEX EVENT. WE BELIEVE HIS REPORT WILL BE BALANCED. DESPITE SENSITIVITY OF ISSUE, WE HAVE HEARD NO CRITICISM FROM ANY QUARTER OF WHOLEY'S CONDUCT OF DISCREET INQUIRY.

3. FROM EXIT INTERVIEW, IT APPEARS WHOLEY CONSIDERS INCIDENT BASICALLY A DISPUTE BETWEEN FACTIONS WITHIN THE BRANCH UNION. HE LEARNED FROM MANY SOURCES THAT THERE WERE REAL QUESTIONS AMONG THE WORKERS OF THE PLANT ABOUT THE CAPABILITY OF THE THEN INCUMBENT UIM LEADERSHIP OF THE PLANT UNION AND DEEP DISSATISFACTION  
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AMONG SOME WORKERS OVER SOME OF THE LEADERSHIP'S POLICIES. ON THE EXCREMENT THROWING INCIDENT, HE FOUND THAT THE THREE PERSONS WHO INITIATED THE INCIDENT WERE NOT HIRED HOODLUMS BUT WORKERS OF THE PLANT AND ALSO MEMBERS OF THE UNION, THAT THEY WERE ARRESTED BY POLICE AND SUBSEQUENTLY FIRED BY MANAGEMENT.

4. FYI: THE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTYSIX GIRLS FIRED FROM THE PLANT HAVE STILL NOT BEEN REHIRED. UNION ELECTIONS HAVE SINCE BEEN HELD. ON APRIL 27, 1,105 OUT OF 1,123 MEMBERS OF THE BRANCH UNION ELECTED DELEGATES. ON APRIL 28, THE DELEGATES VOTED 40 TO 4 FOR MISS PAK BOK-NYE AS NEW PRESIDENT (MISS PAK OPPOSED THE UIM SLATE) AND 42 TO 2 FOR A RESOLUTION SEEKING A CLOSE AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NTWU. THE TONGIL BRANCH UNION IS NO LONGER UNDER INTERVENTION. END FYI.  
SNEIDER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISPUTES, TEXTILES, VISITS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, NEGOTIATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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